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J. LUIS CORREA
46TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
SENIOR WHIP
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION INTEGRITY, SECURITY,
AND ENFORCEMENTS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE,
REGULATORY REFORM, AND ANTITRUST

June 06, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas & Secretary Blinken,

I write to request the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State work with the Chilean government to ensure effective data sharing between our two countries as part of Chile's status as an approved country in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

I am concerned that some citizens of Chile are abusing the Visa Waiver Program to commit burglaries throughout the United States, including in my district in Orange County. Sadly, these burglaries have targeted families as well as local small businesses, thus destroying the livelihoods of the people who worked so hard to create them.

I firmly believe in the Visa Waiver Program, which was designed to facilitate tourism and business while improving our homeland security. Unfortunately, because of a lack of data sharing from the Chilean government, some Chilean citizens have been able to conceal criminal backgrounds and obtain visas to come to the United States. This has resulted in these individuals being able to utilize the Visa Waiver Program to commit crimes in the United States, raising concerns about whether Chile's participation in the program remains a net benefit to our communities.

I respectfully request you work with the Chilean government to improve the data sharing practices. Should Chile not address this matter in a timely and effective way, I would urge the Administration to terminate Chile's participation in the Visa Waiver Program.

We must prioritize the safety and security of American citizens and American businesses by enforcing compliance measures and ensuring participating countries, like Chile, uphold their responsibilities to provide accurate and comprehensive data on their citizens who utilize the Visa Waiver Program.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Luis Correa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

CC: Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, Ambassador of Chile to the United States